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WASHINGTON, D. C.

For the National Era.

DECEMBER.

BY W. A. SUTLIFE.

The glum December, blowing keen,
Had frosted all the land.

And whitened all the swaying pine,
To the night the moon had cast

The dew drop with stranger glare
Adown the chilly west.

And bleak the twilight cometh on
The stars-gleams in her breast.

The shining snow had drifted well
Up hill and down the vale.

And maketh all the winter night
The moonlight ghostly pale.

And in the night the moon had cast
Tree-shadows on the floor.

And in the night the rattling hail
Still blithely more and more.

The roaring blast that bloweth high
Above the palace dome.

The whistling blast that creepeth low
To the toger's home.

The merry blast that laugheth loud
Outside the rich man's door.

The doleful wind that pipeth scorn
Among the frozen poor.

Ye proud ones, gird the fire-light in,
And shut the frost-wind out.

And banty with your choicest wit
The pointers just about.

And wrap your souls in stolen folds,
And sit at gilded ease.

And warm your human love with wine
Blown hither on the seas.

It may be well: God knoweth all!
One laugh, and one may weep!

He will not let the laughing dame
Be cruel to the weeping.

But e'er the scanty corset
Drifts down on and on.

And faces whiter than the drift
See not the rising sun.

For the National Era.

A STORY OF DOMESTIC LIFE.

BY CATHERINE LUTKARD.

CHAPTER VII.

Seymour made no attempt to induce his

father to bestow more largely of his abundance;

he was too well acquainted with that gentle-

ness of character which, in his father, had

been the result of such interference; and he

was very quietly poked his indignation and

his allowance.

"I don't care so much for myself," he re-

sponded, "but it will be hard to see my

father suffering for the want of your accustomed

luxuries."

Grace assured him that she should not suffer

for the dearest of all things, to be

economical and prudent; that she might sooner

be independent of his father's aid; that she did

not depend on him; that she had no need of

him; that she had no need of him; that she

was independent of him; that she had no need

of him; that she was independent of him; that

she was independent of him; that she was

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pendent of him; that she was independent of

had she not found a new and all-engrossing

source of sorrow in the altered conduct of her

husband.

Seymour had always been accustomed to

wealth, society, and leisure, a narrow income,

attention to business, and the companionship of

his wife alone, soon wearied him. It did well

enough in the first few months of their mar-

riage, to come home regularly by night, after

supper, and find Grace waiting for him with a

smile of welcome; but after the romance of the

thing wore off, it was quite different. Then

he was not the same person whom he had

known; he had become more of a stranger; he

was more of a stranger; he was more of a

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stranger; he was more of a stranger; he was

the angle; no sweet face lay among the pil-

lows, no soft breathing stirred the silent air.

That emptiness, that perfect stillness, how they

arose upon the heart!

I have somewhere read a beautiful little

poem, suggested by a custom of the Alpine

shepherds. When they wish to tempt the

sheep to higher pastures, where the timid crea-

tures are afraid to venture, they first carry the

lambs; then the sheep follow where their

young have gone. So with Grace; the Good

Shepherd had taken her lamb to the green

pastures and still waters of Heavenly

Country, and she longed to follow. But she

had wandered far from the right path; blind-

ed by the mists of sin and passion, she saw

no place of returning. Then came into her ear

the words of the Holy Spirit, the Truth and

the Life! In patience and humility she

sought that Way, and by it came into the

Father's house.

[TO BE CONCLUDED IN OUR NEXT.]

For the National Era.

THE HUNDRED VALLEY.

IN HIS famous Essay on the Hero as Divin-

ity, the poet, Edgar Allan Poe, has given

of the poetical characteristics of the old Scan-

dinavian mythology, suggests that the tones

of this early music, though long since inaudible

in the land of their origin, have been

and then caught, faintly echoing through the

backwoods of America. It seems to me that

in my wanderings about the West, I have heard

of these echoes. It seems to me that in

certain places, where the pioneers of the

gigantic heroes who figure in ancient Scan-

dinavian myths, and it is not far out of the way

to remark, that the people of the Mississippi

Valley are now, with the exception of the

living in a sort of mythological epoch, the

resemblance alluded to consists in certain huge,

awkward, and exaggerated forms of

ideas, images, and modes of expression.

Such, briefly stated, were the changes he

beheld in him. She remembered her father's

prediction, and wondered if he would be pleased

to hear how well it was fulfilled. She heard

from home but seldom; the last letter had

given her some encouragement of a reconcilia-

tion, but she had never answered it. "The

hope comes too late," she said; "if I could not

ask forgiveness when I was prosperous and

happy, I shall not ask it now. He would

disturb my motives, always think that circum-

stances drove me to it."

Her father's pride was inflexible. He, like

her, had entered some self-reproach, had

many a long for reconciliation. Long since

he had resolved that the first token which

he gave of his submission should be met in a

kind, indulgent spirit; but she had feared his

limits. She must make the first advance, take

the first step; and this she had determined

never to do, as we have already seen.

CHAPTER VIII.

The third year of Grace's wedded life

was drawing to a close, when her babe was born—

a little girl, welcomed by none except its pale

and sorrowful young mother. Seymour hardly

noticed the child, unless it cried, and then an-

noyed him; there was no aunt, no grand-

mother, proud of her new dignity, no troop

of joyful cousins, to fondle and admire it; there

was no nurse, no maid, to minister to its

needs. The landlady, a kind-hearted woman,

often looked in during the day, and gave it

such attention as Grace's weakness prevented

her from bestowing. She was the only one

who manifested much interest either in the

child or the child.

I cannot tell you how much Grace loved

the child, who was now her only joy, her

only comfort, her only hope. She had

known her father; in truth, it had never been

an affliction, in the best sense of the word. It

was rather a fancy, strengthened by opposi-

tion, that she was a child, and that she

was a child, and that she was a child, and

that she was a child, and that she was a

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such regulations can never be permitted to interfere with or obstruct the just rights of the owner to reclaim his slave, derived from the Constitution of the United States, or with the remedies prescribed by Congress to aid and enforce the same.

Upon these grounds, we are of opinion that the act of Illinois, upon which this indictment is founded, is constitutional, and therefore affirm the judgment.

WM. THOS. CARROLL,
C. S. C. U. S.
Judge McLean, dissenting.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1853.

NOTICE TO AGENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

Our issue of to-day is the commencement of a new volume. All new subscribers are requested, as well as those renewed for some time back, will be accompanied with the volume.

Agents and others, in sending in lists of subscribers, will greatly accommodate us by designating who are old and who are new ones; also, by being particular in giving all the initials of each subscriber, as we often have many of the same name at one post office, and are therefore liable to give credit to the wrong individual.

We give no receipts. As we strictly a cash business, the receipt of the paper will be sufficient. If by an oversight a person should receive a paper beyond the time paid for, it is ours, not his.

Persons who have sent us clubs of ten or upwards are privileged to add to the club at the rate of \$1.50 each, for either old or new subscribers.

Subscribers wishing their papers changed must give the name of the post office to be changed from, as well as the post office they wish it transferred to.

Advertisements on page 12, per cent. discount on Western funds, our friends would be obliged to us by sending, if not too inconvenient, Eastern money, especially notes of five dollars or upwards, on Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, or Boston. Eastern funds generally being at 1/2 per cent, and notes of five dollars on good banks in the cities named, at par.

They will please be careful to send us no notes on any banks in this District, except the following:

Bank of Commerce, Georgetown; Hugh R. Sweeney, Cashier.
Bank of the Metropolis, Washington; J. W. Maury, President; Robert Smith, Cashier.
Bank of Washington, Washington; William Gunton, President; Jas. Adams, Cashier.
Patricio Bank, Washington; G. C. Grammer, President; C. B. Smith, Cashier.
Exchange Bank, Washington; W. Selden, President; W. C. Bostor, Cashier.

It will be seen from the following notice, that Mrs. Southworth is prevented, by indisposition, from beginning her story till next week.

PROSPECT HILL, Jan. 2, 1853.

DEAR DR. BAILEY: Very serious indisposition has prevented me from preparing my manuscript for this week, so that I have to crave the indulgence of yourself and readers until the next paper.

Respectfully yours,
EMMA D. E. N. SOUTHWORTH.

"THEO, THE THUNDER GOD." The new contributor who furnishes this article on our first page, will be ever welcome to our columns. He has hit upon a rich vein.

CORRESPONDENTS MUST EXCUSE US. So great is the rush of new subscribers, that we have no time for any business but opening letters and writing editorials. In a few weeks we trust we shall be able to attend to them.

MR. W. HARKER, Agent of the American Anti-Slavery Society, No. 48 Beekman street, is our agent for the city of New York, and is fully authorized to receive for subscriptions to this paper.

MR. S. B. NOBLE, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, who proposes to travel in Michigan this winter, is an authorized agent for the National Era.

NUMBERS WANTED.—Subscribers who do not file the Era, and have on hand Nos. 302, 308, 306, 307, 309, will confer a favor by remitting them to this office.

"The Friend of Youth" is for the present suspended.

WORCESTER, MASS., Dec. 19, 1852.

To the Editor of the National Era:

DEAR SIR: I cannot resist the impulse to express the thanks of one small household to the author of those fascinating papers called "Stories for Children and Poets" in the National Era. Let me add my hope, that the name of that author may be given to your readers, and that other contributions, in the same department, may follow. I say, in consequence of the ominous word, "concluded," in your last number. Truly yours,

W. W. HIGGINS.

The author is Miss Eliza L. Sprout, who lives in Philadelphia. We shall have more contributions from her in the course of the year.

"CIRCULATE THE DOCUMENTS."

Although the election is over, the Independent Democratic Association of the District of Columbia has not yet disbanded. The success of the compromise Democratic candidate at the late election does not satisfy as to the question of Slavery, and that agitation should cease. The following editorially speeches can be supplied at the prices named, and orders for them are respectfully solicited.

HON. HORACE MANN'S SPEECH on the Institution of Slavery. Delivered in the House of Representatives, August 17, 1852. Twenty-four pages. Price, including postage, 33¢ per hundred.

HON. CHARLES SUMNER'S SPEECH on the Fugitive Slave Law. Delivered in the Senate of the United States, August 26, 1852. Thirty-two pages. Price, including postage, 33¢ per hundred.

HON. S. B. TOWNSEND'S SPEECH on the Present Position of the Democratic Party. Delivered in the House of Representatives, June 23, 1852. Eight pages. Price 15 cents per hundred, including postage.

Address A. M. GANDEWELL, Secretary,
Box 105, Washington City, D. C.

NOVEMBER 8, 1852.

The above Speeches are sold by William Harkner, 48 Beekman street, New York.

THE SEPARATION AND MEETING.

A few evenings ago, many of our citizens, among them several slaveholders, were gathered about the humble dwelling of Barbara Peterson, an old colored woman, familiarly called Aunt Barbara. Soon, a voice exclaimed, "here he comes!" as a stout, good-looking colored man, about twenty-five years of age, rapidly approached. "Aunt Barbara" springing towards him, and fainting in his arms: it was her son, her only son, and she was a widow. He had returned, not from the grave, but from the slave-pen, the grave of living men. Barbara Peterson had been stripped of her children, one by one, till five had been sold away to the plantations of the far South, and Henry was all that was left her. She was poor, and, but for her, destitute. She was a slave, held by a rich merchant of Washington, from whom she had been bought for her own use at eight dollars a month—boarding and clothing him. Hundreds of dollars had she paid punctually, and often had Henry proposed to buy himself, but the master was inexorable.

One day, not long since, while attending to his business, he was seized by two constables, who told him he had a warrant for him. He said he had been doing no wrong, but went with them to a magistrate's office. There he was immediately manacled, and dispatched to Baltimore, where he was thrown into the slave

pen. He had been sold by the master to the trader!

The manner of his seizure was designed to prevent the outbreak of indignation, which it was supposed such a transaction would provoke. Barbara soon heard of it, and, with a heart breaking with anguish, she hastened to some of her friends, and told her story. An officer of the United States Army proceeded forthwith to Baltimore, and ascertained that the trader would sell Henry for \$1,000, on condition that the sum of \$50 should be deposited as forfeit money, provided the whole amount could not be raised in ten days. On his return, several gentlemen, among them the Mayor of the city—the majority of them slaveholders—undertook to raise the sum, and at last happily succeeded. The price was paid down; Henry was redeemed; and it was he, who on the evening mentioned, in breathless haste from the cars, clasped in his arms his aged mother, overcome with excess of joy.

We have mentioned these facts, to show what the Law of Congress allows in Washington, how some men will use the terrible prerogatives with which it invests them, and to what an extent public sentiment here is in advance of the Law. Would that in every similar case, occurring in the District, we could record an equally happy termination!

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Until lately, questions of domestic concern have principally occupied the attention of the People and the Government. Questions affecting our Foreign Relations have generally held a subordinate position, owing to our long established policy of Non-Interference. Even the controversy with England in regard to Oregon excited but a transient interest, and the war with Mexico produced far less agitation, than the question of Slavery, in connection with the territorial acquisition to which it led.

But, we seem to be on the threshold of a new era. The important questions of internal concern which have so long constituted the basis of party divisions, have generally been settled, and the foreign relations of the country are in a position to give to the President for the next four years. The Opposition Party has been routed, and there is certainly a prevalent disposition among its scattered members to acquiesce in the popular verdict against them.

It is at this moment that our Foreign Relations begin to assume an importance which belongs to no domestic question, except that of Slavery. Indeed, they derive additional importance from the fact that this question has become intimately complicated with them.

Difficulties begin to encompass us on every side. Hard problems will be presented for solution to the incoming Administration. Louis Napoleon, as Emperor of France, must glorify himself and his nation by some great act. The content of Europe presents no inviting field for his ambition. In a contest with its monarchs he might re-awaken a revolutionary spirit, which would undermine the foundations of his own throne. For months past, the Paris press supposed to represent his views have been denouncing the growth and usurpations of the Anglo-Saxon race, especially on this continent—the inability of the Latin race here to resist its encroachments—the danger that Mexico may fall a prey to its overgrown ambition—the duty that devolves upon France, as the head of the Latin race, to step forth in its defense, and preserve it from extinction. Add to this, that the two races are generally divided by religion—the one being Catholic, the other Protestant—the Pope being naturally desirous of saving his authority in this hemisphere from subversion. Just at this point, we find, a French Count in Sonora, a Mexican province adjoining California, ostensibly prosecuting certain mining titles which he claims, but really making war against the local Government, routing its troops, and raising the flag of the French Empire. This act may be unauthorized; it may be an experiment to ascertain how far this country is disposed to acquiesce in any such foreign colonization; we do not believe it will be disclaimed, should our Government appear hesitating or timid.

Almost at the same time, a correspondence is disclosed, showing that this Government has been encouraging intervention—armed intervention—by France and England, in the affairs of this continent, for the purpose of rebuking and restricting the power of a black empire. And, as a sequel, a report reaches our shores that, in accordance with a treaty of several years' standing, France, with a view to make its protectorate of Dominions effectual—a protectorate really favored by our Government—has taken possession of Samana, an important naval station, from which it can overlook the course of our commerce. And next, we hear of the presence of her fleets at Vera Cruz, for the purpose of enforcing payment of her claims on a country torn by faction and anarchy, and almost in a state of disorganization. On the Atlantic, on the Gulf, on the Pacific, the new Empire flaunts its banner in our face, as if prepared to dislodge the mission assigned to it by the Press of Louis Napoleon, as the defender and champion of the Latin race.

See how Slavery complicates this matter. If Hayti had been a white Republic or Empire, this Government would never have united with European Powers to put it down, and have sanctioned their menaces of force. It was the peculiar antipathies and interests of the Slave Power which has been working to obtain, through the medium of a Dominican Republic, a foothold in Hayti, for the purpose of opening against the black race there, which led the American Government, in gross violation of the Monroe doctrine of Non-Interference, to encourage the joint intervention of England and France in the affairs of this hemisphere—and the result shows that, under the lead of this miserable sectional power, it has played directly into the hands of France. Now, suppose French occupancy of Samana to be a fact, what is the Government to do? If it acquiesces, our declaration against European intervention in the concerns of this New World will be treated with contempt, and we shall be more powerless than if it had never been proclaimed. If we call upon France to back her authority, we must go to war. What, then, would be our position? Dominica, that "white" Republic we have been trying to warm into life, would be the ally of France, and Souleque the necessary ally of the United States! How would our slaveholding States relish this strange conjunction? And yet to this complication it must come, if France, having taken possession of Samana, should refuse to retire, unless this Government, instead of prepared to eat its own words, and lay itself open to indignity and aggression. What a potent cause of vacillation, confusion, and weakness, in the conduct of our Foreign Relations, is the "great god" of Slavery! Under its influence, "the good that we would, we do not, and the evil that we would not, we do."

Not with France alone are difficulties brewing. With England, we have an unsettled question in Central America; and, if report speak truth, we have there also waived the doctrine of the Monroe declaration. With England, and France, and Spain, we have the great controversy about Cuba. Our entire policy in relation to it is now known. The American Government has worked hard for the acquisition of that important island. It has offered two hundred millions of dollars for it. It has sought to frighten Spain, by holding up now the horrors of Cuban revolution, then the grasping designs of England. It has announced that it will resist its acquisition by any other Power, with all the means at its disposal. It disclaims any purpose to obtain the island, by force or fraud, so long as it shall remain in the hands of Spain. Towards that, but it asserts that annexation must come, sooner or later—it is only a question of time—the geographical position of the island has determined its destiny. It will bring it at any price from the Spanish Government—or, should any European Power attempt to seize it, or a successful revolution happen, annexation to this country must take place. With these views before the world, the question of Cuban annexation must greatly complicate our relations with the European world.

Towards Mexico our position is critical. Mr. Mason, who, solicited as he is for the annexation of Cuba, is still anxious to avoid collision with England and France, and is not disposed to be so far from the case of our Mexican difficulties. Mexico furnishes a safer field just now than Cuba. We do not think the attitude of our readers has been directed to the following proceedings, which took place in the Senate, on the 30th of August last, immediately before the adjournment of Congress.

Mr. Mason, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, to which was referred the message of the President of the United States of the 27th of July, 1852, communicating the correspondence between the Government of the United States and the Republic of Mexico, respecting the right of way across the isthmus of Tehuantepec, made a elaborate report, concluding with the following resolution: "Resolved, That the Executive be requested to lay on the table and order to be printed."

"Resolved, As the judgment of the Senate, that, in the present posture of the question on the grant of a right of way through the territory of Mexico, the Government of the United States, should be requested to lay on the table and order to be printed."

"Resolved, That the Executive be requested to lay on the table and order to be printed."

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of other nations, where Slavery is recognized. If it does it, it is as a matter of comity, and not as a matter of international right. The state of slavery is deemed to be a municipal regulation, founded upon and limited to the range of the territorial laws. This was fully recognized in the Somerset case, which was decided before the American Revolution. It is manifest from this consideration, that if the Constitution had not contained this clause, (the fugitive clause), every non-slaveholding State in the Union would have been at liberty to declare free all runaway slaves coming within its limits, and to give them entire immunity and protection against the claims of their masters."

Now, if every non-slaveholding State would have been at liberty, had no fugitive clause been inserted in the Constitution, to declare free all runaway slaves coming within their limits, and give them entire immunity and protection against the claims of their masters, it follows, that as no clause has been inserted in the Constitution in relation to slavery, in transit where Slavery is not recognized, every non-slaveholding State is at liberty to declare free all runaway slaves coming within its limits, and to give them entire immunity and protection against the claims of their masters.

This is precisely what the Law and the Court have done in the State of New York; and should this State feel disposed to justify itself for exercising an undoubted right, it need do nothing more than refer to this opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States, whose profound anxiety to guard the interests and claims of Slavery it was mad to question. At all events, that Court is entitled to a little more consideration than a Wall street lawyer.

THE DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT IN THE CASE OF KELIA.

We publish this week the Opinion of the Supreme Court, in the case of Dr. Kellia, of Illinois, an abstract of which appeared in our last number. It gives us pleasure to record the fact that Judge McLean dissented from the Opinion.

It will be recollected that in the case of Prigg vs. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Court held that the power to legislate on the subject of the reclamation and recapture of fugitives from service or labor was vested wholly in Congress, to the exclusion of all State interference. It labored this point with great ingenuity, and pointed out the mischievous consequences that must result from the assumption of concurrent jurisdiction in the States. "Consequences," it said, "like these, show the nature and objects of the provision imperatively require that, to make it effectual, it should be construed to be exclusive of State authority."

The Court would not tolerate the idea of any State legislation, whatsoever on the subject, whether to help or hinder the execution of the constitutional provision.

It was a statute of Pennsylvania, against kidnapping, whose constitutionality was then in question, and that statute was supposed to conflict with the claims of Slavery. A declaration against its constitutionality, for that reason, would not have been decent; and so a general principle—the unconstitutionality of all State legislation, whether favoring or hindering the claims of a master—was found to be necessary. This principle was laid down, fully, explicitly, emphatically. The people of the free States and slave States alike understood it. Slaveholders exulted, for its application at that time was in their favor. But when the non-slaveholding States began to repeal their legislation on the subject, and to prohibit their officers from acting in behalf of slave claimants, or their jails from being used for the confinement of fugitives, their exultation ceased; they complained of bad faith on the part of the North; and the majority of the Supreme Court, we presume, that they had gone too far in the assertion of a general principle—for now we find this very Court holding that a statute of the State of Illinois, designed to favor the execution of the clause in the Constitution relating to fugitives from service or labor—in other words, to aid in the recapture of such fugitives—is entirely constitutional! In the Prigg case, the statute of Pennsylvania was unconstitutional, because Congress, in the opinion of the Court, had exclusive power to legislate on the subject of fugitives from service or labor. In the Kellia case, the statute of Illinois is perfectly constitutional, for Congress has never decided that the Police Power of a State would not enable it to pass laws which would help the master in the assertion of his rights over the runaway slave! It comes to this, then, that the Constitution of the United States vests the exclusive power of legislation on the subject in Congress; only, by its police power, a State may constitutionally legislate in aid of the legislation of Congress! Plain people, looking beyond the technical ambiguities of the Court, will see at once that it has reversed its opinion in the Prigg case, and now holds that the States have a power of concurrent legislation with Congress on the subject. It matters not whence this power is derived, by what name it is designated, for what ostensible object it may be exercised—the fact is affirmed by the Court, that State legislation, adapted to protect and enforce the claims of masters to fugitive slaves, is constitutional; and this affirmation, despite all judicial sophistry, is tantamount to a reversal of the decision in the Prigg case, so far as that asserted exclusive jurisdiction in Congress over the whole subject of the reclamation and recapture of fugitive slaves.

If it were not held to be presumptuous to speak of it as a reversal, we should say that the Court, for the purpose of giving effect to its own opinions, misrepresented the statute of Illinois. It says that "the statute of Illinois, having for its object the prevention of the immigration of such persons, prohibits the harboring or secreting of negro slaves, whether domestic or foreign, and without regard to the master's desire either to reclaim or abandon them." Is this representation of the object of the statute sustained by its language or history? Here it is:

"If any person shall harbor or secrete any negro, mulatto, or person of color, the same being a runaway slave, or a fugitive from service or labor, or any other person, whether he reside in this State or in any other State or Territory, or district, within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States, or shall in any wise hinder or prevent the lawful owner or owners of such slaves or servants from reclaiming them in a lawful manner, every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and fined not exceeding five hundred dollars, or imprisoned not exceeding six months."

This statute belongs to a class of acts which were enacted in many of the Western States when it was the prevailing impression that the States had concurrent jurisdiction on this subject. They were passed, not mainly with a view to prevent the immigration within their limits of fugitive slaves; for it was well understood that the fugitives generally were anxious simply to pass through their borders to Canada. The great object was, to satisfy what they held to be the just claims of slaveholders. So far as the statute of Illinois affected merely the relations of its citizens to each other, it might be regarded as a police regulation; but the number of domestic slaves was quite insignificant, and the evils resulting from their

concomitance were too slight to call for the passage of such an act. Its main purpose, clearly, was, to prevent its citizens from intercepting objects on the way of slave claimants from other States, and so far from having been passed "without regard to the master's desire either to reclaim or abandon," his fugitive slave, the statute of Illinois was clearly passed with a view to protect the claims of slave owners; passed, too, with a view to the execution of what then was supposed to be an obligation imposed by the Constitution upon the States.

We remark that it was the mass consciousness of inconsistency that led the Court to keep back a portion of the truth in restating the points decided in the Prigg case. It says the questions then presented and decided were entirely different from those which affected the Kellia case:

"The following questions were presented by the case, and decided by the Court:

"1. That, under and in virtue of the Constitution of the United States, the owner of a slave is clothed with entire authority, in every State of the Union, to seize and re-capture his slave, wherever he can do so without illegal violence or a breach of the peace.

"2. That the Government is clothed with appropriate authority and functions to enforce the delivery on claim of the owner, and has properly exercised it in the act of Congress of 12th February, 1793.

"3. That any State law or regulation which interrupts, impedes, limits, embarrasses, delays, or postpones the rights of the owner to the immediate possession of his slave, and the immediate command of his services, is void."

Now, we affirm, on the authority of the record, sanctioned by the Court itself that in the statement of the third question, the Court presents the opinion of the Court in the Prigg case, after arguing at length the power of Congress over the subject of fugitives from service or labor, proceeds to state the second question submitted for decision, as follows:

"The remaining question is, whether the power of legislation upon this subject is exclusive in the National Government, or concurrent in its exercise by the States by Congress?" In our opinion, it is exclusive, and we shall now proceed briefly to state our reasons for that opinion."

On this point specially, Chief Justice Taney expressed his dissent. "As I understand the opinion of the Court," he says, "it goes further, and decides that the power to provide a remedy for this right is vested exclusively in Congress, and that all laws upon the subject passed by a State, since the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, are null and void, even though they were intended in good faith to protect the owner in the exercise of his right of property, or do not conflict in any degree with the act of Congress."

The language of Judge Story, and the construction given to it by Chief Justice Taney, shows that the Court decided in the Prigg case, that State laws, with a view either to help or hinder the rights of the master, were alike unconstitutional—and yet this fact is kept back by the Court in the present case, when it says that the decision was against State laws which interrupt, impede, limit, embarrass, delay, or postpone the rights of the owner. In a word, it states that the Court—the presentation of the whole truth would convict it of inconsistency.

But why protract our comments. Let us have the conclusion of the whole matter. Any State legislation which interrupts, impedes, limits, embarrasses, delays, or postpones the rights of the owner to the immediate possession of his slave, and the immediate command of his services, is void; for Congress has the sole and exclusive power of legislation on the subject of fugitives from service or labor. This is the first great principle; and the second is like unto it, viz: Any State legislation which helps, extends, facilitates, or quickens the right of the owner to the immediate possession of the slave and the command of his services, is valid, for Congress has the sole and exclusive power of legislation on the subject of fugitives from service or labor. 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WASHINGTON, D. C.

EXTRACTS FROM OUR CORRESPONDENCE.

Danville, Ky., Dec. 8, 1852.—The friends of Freedom polled but a small vote in this State on the 2d of November, and this for various reasons. The Pittsburgh Courier was unable to send it too late to allow an efficient organization. Some gentlemen, who were placed on the electoral ticket, defected, and went over to Scott, to be badly beaten. The result was no ticket was perfected till October; then it was too late to canvass the State. Meanwhile C. M. Clay, the soul of the movement, was confined at home, nearly the entire summer and fall, by illness and business. We are not disposed to be discouraged. The signs of the time betoken a brighter future. The great question is to be kept before the People. Success is our motto—our watchword. Henceforth their calling better, and if a National Convention be found necessary, let it be held early, without regard to the Whigs and Hunker Democrats.

Much is gained by being first in the field. And why should we wait for the old parties to display their colors first? Does not experience demonstrate that whatever be their apparent hue in the legislative arena, they invariably change in their progress, the pro-slavery die? Thousands and tens of thousands in the North, to the scandal of the truth and great abuse of their consciences, voted for Pierce and Scott, in the humble hope of gaining some crumbs of Executive favor. They shall have their recompense. Such men, Northern men, with every principle—five leaves and two small tabs—held together by the adhesive principle of public plunder, do more to perpetuate slavery than all the world beside. If Northern men would stand by Hale, Sumner, Chase, Mann, and their noble colleagues, who maintain the right, slavery would be in twenty-five years. But now, how long? I am a Southern man by birth and education; and though a resident for several years of the Free State of Virginia, I understand how a Northern man can be the apostle or supporter of our "peculiar institution." "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

Racine, Wis., Dec. 1, 1852.—I see you are liable to be misled in some of your extracts, owing to distance from the various fields, by not knowing the full facts.

You say Durkee was defeated by a coalition of Whigs and Democrats. The Whigs are hardly subject fairly to this charge. The Whigs could hardly expect to elect Durkee, in any circumstance; and probably at least half of them, especially in the country, expected and desired to vote for Durkee, and I think with the approval of the majority of the party, especially the Seward Whigs, who are a large majority. From some cause, they thought that this State might possibly be carried for Scott by great effort. If, therefore, their candidates for Congress would put forth special and unwearied efforts, and furnish the "sineas of war," so much the more would the main cause be improved. Mr. Durkee (as fellow townsman) had put forth such efforts, and denouncing the Baltimore platform of his party, stamped the district on the Free Soil principles, without reservation; and of course, in the main, drew off those Whigs who were purporting to vote for Durkee, especially as the papers insisted that they could elect him (Durkee) true to their party. I do not think they were sincere in this, but they doubtless were in regard to the result in the State. I think the Free-Soilers were as much mistaken (at least I was), and it was not keeping in mind the constant foreign addition to our population, almost all of whom, at least the first year or two, if not longer, are Democrats. You say we have made bad figures in this country. Four years ago, the disaffection towards Case was nearly as great as anywhere in New York. Almost all the leaders in this place and county embraced the Van Buren principles; and, as a result, all the appliances which none but politicians know how to use, were in requisition in behalf of the Democratic ticket. Barlowman in New York stood firm to their principles in 1848 and 1850, the old line Democrats in this State would have been swept entirely away before this time; but the appliances of the party used at Washington have proved too strong, even as far as Wisconsin, and there seems no other path, but over, instead of through, that great party. To me it seems that the next four years should be devoted to the existence of the Free Democratic party, as such. Unless we can step into rank as one of the first parties as to numbers, we can hardly, in my opinion, maintain our organization. If Mr. Force goes South we must receive large accessions from the liberal Democrats, and must absorb the liberal Whigs, unless that party adopts our principles. Are we not a little too severe towards them, when we say that, without any exceptions, a defeated and obsolete faction? The term faction is hardly in good taste, especially as that party has not manifested so much disposition to depart from the Democratic, but rather their conservatism has often led them to mistake real progress for tendency to Agrarianism.

A more perfect and thorough State organization what we need, together with an increase of Free Soil papers, especially German. A great and systematic and prolonged effort must be put forth, commencing from the North or South, and extending to the West. The friends in Ohio have well begun. Let their Convention be well attended, and give tone to the effort. Let it be followed by one in New York, if it should be, together with a strategy. If not, by Massachusetts, and so on, as by some concert should be most advisable, so that all the Free States shall be organized in season for the spring elections, and the result will show that it will be a real victory.

Truly yours,
F. W. DE BRAD.

I thought I could say my hand directly on the vote in this District, and do not like to do so at this moment, and do not like to do so in this country the vote stood—1848, Durkee (F. S.) 908, Finch (Whig) 563, Lynde (Dem.) 483. In 1852, Durkee 537, Durand (Whig) 555, Wells (Dem.) 517.

Martinsville, Morgan co., Indiana, Dec. 4, 1852.—In all, twenty subscribers to this paper will be ten or twenty more, than will be sent from this place. This county has always been in the backwoods. Formerly, the Era was looked upon as most abominable and dangerous, but I doubt if it is now. It should be eighty or one hundred copies taken now in this county, by members of the old parties.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 6, 1852.—The Free Democracy of this city met on Saturday evening last for the Presidential election, and commenced a thorough re-organization, and in defiance of all Baltimore Platforms. We are determined to agitate, until the Baltimorean of American despotism shall be compelled to call our school of Doctors and Professors to read and interpret the handwriting.

Fallstown P. O., Beaver county, Pa., Dec. 13, 1852.—Enclosed, please find \$27, to pay for fifteen copies of the National Era, for the purpose of presenting to a large club of very flattering, several having already signed for it, whom hereafter I know only as the ultra Whigs; and when time to time forward them the want of Whig, which I thought rather significant.

Lockport, N. Y., Nov. 27, 1852.—The Lockport Democratic League at their last meeting, remodelled their Constitution, making their permanent officers—A President, four Vice Presidents, a Clerk, Secretary and Corresponding Secretary—all having their specific duties. Among the objects to be carried out, was to increase the circulation of the National Era. They all resolved to work, and get up a club for the Era in the name of the League, and appointed the four Vice Presidents (one of whom resides in each of the four election districts of the town), to receive subscribers' names and money, and from time to time forward them in the name of the League, and report to the League at their next meeting.

Our friend J. C. has been getting up a list, and being a member of the League, has consented to have them forwarded to you in their name. We shall continue to forward names and money as fast as received, and shall expect to receive the Era on our most favorable terms.

Greenville, Ohio, Dec. 15, 1852.—Our usual Free Soil vote in this town has ranged from 50 to 60. This fall we gave over one hundred, and that without the aid of one single Free Soil speech from any person, or any other cause, except that the Era is bearing fruit. The Democrats in our town have now become the third party, at least in point of numbers. I presume I shall send you a number of new subscribers in a few days.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 15, 1852.—The principles of Free Democracy are gaining ground in the old North State; outsiders may not think so, but we know that the lacon is in our midst, and that the vote for Hale and Julian was small. Cause why? The ticket was formed but a little more than two weeks before the election. The printing of tickets was contracted for to be done one week before the election; when called for, they were not done—the Slave Power said no. Free tickets may be elected, and polled at some precincts, but a majority of Free-Soilers did not vote—yes, nineteen-twentieths—because they could not get the chance; and when they could, they were not there. More than half voted. I did not vote myself, because I thought best not to vote without we could have something like a fair showing.

He sends us a club of subscribers—Ed. Era.

Middle Lancaster, Pa., Dec. 15, 1852.—I am truly rejoiced to reflect that in this region of country, in which I am acquainted, in which three years ago, to the best of my knowledge, in the humble hope of gaining some crumbs of Executive favor, they shall have their recompense. Such men, Northern men, with every principle—five leaves and two small tabs—held together by the adhesive principle of public plunder, do more to perpetuate slavery than all the world beside. If Northern men would stand by Hale, Sumner, Chase, Mann, and their noble colleagues, who maintain the right, slavery would be in twenty-five years. But now, how long? I am a Southern man by birth and education; and though a resident for several years of the Free State of Virginia, I understand how a Northern man can be the apostle or supporter of our "peculiar institution." "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

Elgin, Kane co., Ill., Dec. 3, 1852.—Now the election is over, and excitement subsided, it is all important that papers advocating the great cause of Human Freedom should be well supported, and that there be a large circulation in getting up the following list, which I think the duty of every Anti-Slavery man, in spite of the Whig balance platform, to put forth special and unwearied efforts, and furnish the "sineas of war," so much the more would the main cause be improved. Mr. Durkee (as fellow townsman) had put forth such efforts, and denouncing the Baltimore platform of his party, stamped the district on the Free Soil principles, without reservation; and of course, in the main, drew off those Whigs who were purporting to vote for Durkee, especially as the papers insisted that they could elect him (Durkee) true to their party. I do not think they were sincere in this, but they doubtless were in regard to the result in the State. I think the Free-Soilers were as much mistaken (at least I was), and it was not keeping in mind the constant foreign addition to our population, almost all of whom, at least the first year or two, if not longer, are Democrats. You say we have made bad figures in this country. Four years ago, the disaffection towards Case was nearly as great as anywhere in New York. Almost all the leaders in this place and county embraced the Van Buren principles; and, as a result, all the appliances which none but politicians know how to use, were in requisition in behalf of the Democratic ticket. Barlowman in New York stood firm to their principles in 1848 and 1850, the old line Democrats in this State would have been swept entirely away before this time; but the appliances of the party used at Washington have proved too strong, even as far as Wisconsin, and there seems no other path, but over, instead of through, that great party. To me it seems that the next four years should be devoted to the existence of the Free Democratic party, as such. Unless we can step into rank as one of the first parties as to numbers, we can hardly, in my opinion, maintain our organization. If Mr. Force goes South we must receive large accessions from the liberal Democrats, and must absorb the liberal Whigs, unless that party adopts our principles. Are we not a little too severe towards them, when we say that, without any exceptions, a defeated and obsolete faction? The term faction is hardly in good taste, especially as that party has not manifested so much disposition to depart from the Democratic, but rather their conservatism has often led them to mistake real progress for tendency to Agrarianism.

A more perfect and thorough State organization what we need, together with an increase of Free Soil papers, especially German. A great and systematic and prolonged effort must be put forth, commencing from the North or South, and extending to the West. The friends in Ohio have well begun. Let their Convention be well attended, and give tone to the effort. Let it be followed by one in New York, if it should be, together with a strategy. If not, by Massachusetts, and so on, as by some concert should be most advisable, so that all the Free States shall be organized in season for the spring elections, and the result will show that it will be a real victory.

Truly yours,
F. W. DE BRAD.

I thought I could say my hand directly on the vote in this District, and do not like to do so at this moment, and do not like to do so in this country the vote stood—1848, Durkee (F. S.) 908, Finch (Whig) 563, Lynde (Dem.) 483. In 1852, Durkee 537, Durand (Whig) 555, Wells (Dem.) 517.

Martinsville, Morgan co., Indiana, Dec. 4, 1852.—In all, twenty subscribers to this paper will be ten or twenty more, than will be sent from this place. This county has always been in the backwoods. Formerly, the Era was looked upon as most abominable and dangerous, but I doubt if it is now. It should be eighty or one hundred copies taken now in this county, by members of the old parties.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 6, 1852.—The Free Democracy of this city met on Saturday evening last for the Presidential election, and commenced a thorough re-organization, and in defiance of all Baltimore Platforms. We are determined to agitate, until the Baltimorean of American despotism shall be compelled to call our school of Doctors and Professors to read and interpret the handwriting.

Fallstown P. O., Beaver county, Pa., Dec. 13, 1852.—Enclosed, please find \$27, to pay for fifteen copies of the National Era, for the purpose of presenting to a large club of very flattering, several having already signed for it, whom hereafter I know only as the ultra Whigs; and when time to time forward them the want of Whig, which I thought rather significant.

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Our friend J. C. has been getting up a list, and being a member of the League, has consented to have them forwarded to you in their name. We shall continue to forward names and money as fast as received, and shall expect to receive the Era on our most favorable terms.

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